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ILLINOIS INSTITUTION
FOR THE
EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,

LOCATED, AT

JACKSONVILLE, ILL.

1849-1893.

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BRIEF HISTORY

OF THE

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FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,

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JACKSONVILLE, ILL.

1849-1893.

*Presented by the ILLINOIS BOARD OF WORLD'S
FAIR COMMISSIONERS.*

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JOHN MORRIS COMPANY, PRINTERS,
118 AND 120 MONROE STREET,
CHICAGO.



SAMUEL BACON (Blind),
1849-1850.

W. S. PHILLIPS,
1888-1890.

DR. JOSHUA RHOADS,
1850-1874.

REV. F. W. PHILLIPS,
1874-1888.

FRANK H. HALL,
1890-1893.

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HISTORY

OF THE

ILLINOIS INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

LOCATED AT JACKSONVILLE.

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The question is often asked, "How did it happen that three of the twelve State Charitable Institutions were located at Jacksonville?" Briefly the answer is in the character and ability of the early settlers of that city. Here were men who were not only exceptionally capable in the management of affairs but who were deeply interested in every public enterprise; who abounded in good works—religious, political, educational, and philanthropic.

A leader in benevolent and educational enterprises, was Judge Samuel D. Lockwood whose home was in Morgan county from 1829 to 1853. His name appears as a member of the first Board of Trustees of every state institution in Jacksonville, and to him, perhaps, as much as to any other man, is that city indebted for the location of these institutions within its borders. Associated with Judge Lockwood in philanthropic and educational effort were Judge William Thomas, Col. J. J. Hardin, Dennis Rockwell, Col. James Dunlap, Judge James Berdan, Dr. David Prince, William W. Happy, Gov. Richard Yates, Joseph Morton, Samuel Hunt, Dr. Nathaniel English, Joseph O. King, Matthew Stacy, Julian M. Sturtevant, Dr. Samuel Adams, and Gov. Joseph Duncan. Had these men settled in Peoria county or in Madison county instead of Morgan county, it is altogether probable that Jacksonville would not have secured for itself in a period of twenty years (1830 to 1850) Illinois College, The Female Academy, Illinois Female College, Illinois Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, Illinois Hospital for the Insane, and Illinois Institution for the Education of the Blind.

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THE DEAF AND DUMB.

In the winter of 1838-39, Hon. Orville H. Browning of Quincy, Illinois, prepared and introduced into the General Assembly of Illinois, a bill for an act to establish the "Illinois Asylum (now Institution) for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb." This bill passed the Senate without a dissenting voice; passed the House of Representatives by a large majority, and was approved by Gov. Thomas Carlin, February 23, 1839. In securing the passage of this bill, Judge Browning was ably assisted by Hon. William Thomas, Hon. Newton Cloud, and Col. J. J. Hardin, of Morgan county. Presumably through their efforts, the school was located at Jacksonville. The "Asylum" was not opened for the reception of pupils until December 1, 1845, and no pupils were enrolled until January 26, 1846. This was the *first* of the great State Charitable Institutions of Illinois, provided for by legislative enactment, and the *first* to open its doors to the unfortunate.

THE INSANE.

In response to a most eloquent appeal made by the sainted Dorothea Dix, a bill for an act to establish the "Illinois Hospital for the Insane" passed both houses of the General Assembly with little opposition. It received the signature of Gov. Augustus C. French, March 1, 1847. The second section of this act named nine gentlemen, all residents of Morgan county, as trustees. On March 20, 1847, the Board organized, electing Judge Lockwood as President, and soon after agreed upon a site for the location of the Hospital about one mile south of the Court House in Jacksonville. The first patient was received from McLean county, November 3, 1851.

What is now known as the Illinois Central Hospital for the Insane was the second of the great State Charitable Institutions of Illinois, to be provided for by law, but as will appear from what follows, the third to open its doors for the reception of inmates.

THE BLIND.

In the summer of 1847, Samuel Bacon, who had just graduated from the Ohio Institution for the Instruction of the Blind at Columbus and who had been employed there during the previous year as a "pupil teacher," determined to seek his fortune in the West. Accordingly he embarked at Cincinnati with the intention of going

to Galena, Illinois. While on the steamboat below St. Louis, he became acquainted with a gentleman from Southern Illinois who was a member of the Constitutional Convention then in session at Springfield. By him Mr. Bacon was informed that a large building was about to be erected in Jacksonville, Illinois, in which, when completed, a school for the blind was to be opened. Thinking that he might obtain employment as a teacher in the new institution, he turned his course toward Morgan county and arrived at Jacksonville, August 12, 1847. Here he learned that the supposed institution for the blind was a hospital for the insane.

Mr. Bacon remained several days in Jacksonville during which time he met Mr. John W. Lathrop and by him was introduced to Dr. English, Judge Lockwood, Judge Berdan, Dennis Rockwell, and others, by whom he was encouraged to attempt the establishment of a school for the blind.

Concerning the visit of Mr. Bacon to Jacksonville, Mr. Lathrop relates several interesting incidents. On one occasion Mr. Bacon was in Mr. Lathrop's store in consultation with Judge Lockwood, Dennis Rockwell, and others. A gentleman entered who desired to pay a note the amount of which was at that time due Mr. Lathrop. The note was produced and read in an undertone, but loud enough for the sensitive ear of a blind man to hear every word. The note bore an endorsement indicating that one partial payment had been made. "What is the legal rate of interest in Illinois?" inquired Mr. Bacon. "Ten per cent," replied the holder of the note, and before Mr. Lathrop with paper and pencil could solve the problem presented, the blind man named the amount due which proved to be correct to a cent.

Mr. Bacon inquired if there were any blind persons in the vicinity. On being informed that there was a family near Lynnvile, eight miles distant, in which were one or two blind children, he immediately declared his intention of visiting them, and that he would go at once. Judge Lockwood suggested that without doubt he would find an opportunity to ride to Lynnvile within two or three days. He assured the Judge that he would rather walk than wait one day; and as soon as he could obtain the necessary directions, he started on his midday journey in the dark, afoot and alone. He reached Lynnvile before sunset, spent the night with Mr. Hays the father of the blind children, and returned alone to Jacksonville next morning.

Soon after this Mr. Bacon visited Springfield. The constitutional Convention was still in session and he had the opportunity of meeting many of the prominent men of the state. On all proper occasions he urged the necessity of a school for the blind of Illinois. From Judge William Thomas of Morgan county, who was a member of the Convention and also at that time one of the trustees of each of the two state institutions already located in Jacksonville, he received some encouragement, although coupled with the remark that it would require a very skillful and persistent effort to succeed.

It will be remembered that at this time the state was just emerging from a period of very great financial embarrassment. In 1841 Illinois state bonds declined to fourteen cents on the dollar, and it was many years after this before the Auditor's warrants were always worth the amount named on their face.

To interest an already overburdened people in the education of the blind to the extent that they would be willing to provide the necessary funds, seemed almost a hopeless task. But toward the accomplishment of this most humane object, Mr. Bacon had set his face and it was not for a moment in his thoughts to turn back.

He left Springfield for Galena, going by stage through Peoria, Hennepin and Dixon. While on this journey and while in Galena, he constantly carried in mind the interests of the blind children of Illinois. He kept up a vigorous correspondence, gathering all possible information concerning this unfortunate class and interesting the friends of the blind in the prospective institution.

In the following spring he returned to Jacksonville and on April 1, 1848, met, at the office of Brown & Yates on the east side of the public square, a number of gentlemen who favored his enterprise. It was then and there determined that Mr. Bacon should continue to gather information which would show the necessity of such an institution, and, as soon as practicable, open in the city of Jacksonville, a private school for the blind. To defray the expenses of such an undertaking a subscription paper was drawn up and circulated among the citizens of the town. Judge Thomas' name appeared at the head of the list with a subscription of \$100; Col. George M. Chambers subscribed \$50; Judge William Brown, \$50; Richard Yates, \$25; D. A. Smith, \$25; Col. James Dunlap, \$25; Harmony Lodge No. 3, A. F. & A. M., \$40; Thomas Officer, \$20. The original papers can not be found, but it is known that the follow-

ing names in addition to those given above, appeared on the list, the amounts subscribed by each varying from \$3 to \$15 or \$20: Samuel Dunlap, Prof. Sturtevant, Dr. David Prince, George Dunlap, Matthew Stacy, Joab Wilkinson, Rev. Andrew Todd, Dennis Rockwell, E. Walcott, Dr. Samuel Adams, Judge S. D. Lockwood, J. W. King, J. Neely, Ira Davenport, James Jackson, J. J. Cassell, David Robb, Samuel Markoe, M. H. Cassell, F. Stevenson, J. H. Finch, A. Coffin, William D. Freeman, Cornelius Hook, A. F. Milton, G. W. Harlin, J. O. King, and Robert Hockenhull.*

Dr. English was appointed superintendent of the enterprise, J. O. King collector and treasurer, and Judge Berdan, secretary. Mr. Bacon was authorized to continue his work of securing information concerning the blind in the state and of interesting their friends in the establishment of a state school. For this purpose he visited many counties traveling on foot, by stage, on horse-back, by boat, and by wagon, more than two thousand miles.

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

When Mr. Bacon returned to Jacksonville he had nearly sixty names of blind children who were residents of Illinois, many of whom he had visited. Selecting four from this number, George Springer of Adams county, John Jones of Marion county, Joseph and Nancy Fielding of Pike county, a school was opened June 5, 1848, in a two-story frame building which stood on the ground now occupied by the Wabash depot. Mrs. Sarah Graves was employed as matron and Mr. Bacon was the teacher. Miss Sarah Graves a daughter of the matron did much reading for the pupils and for their teacher, and has continued to read for the teacher ever since that time. They were married July 12, 1849, and are now living at Nebraska City, Neb. Later one or two pupils came into the school, but the four named seem to be the ones upon whom Mr. Bacon depended to prove his point, namely, that it was worth while to attempt to educate the blind. The school continued in session for about seven months. Of the work done, Mr. Bacon says: "The pupils were taught to sing twenty quartettes. The geography was elementary as we had no maps. In arithmetic they were taught all forms of fractions, also cube root; and they were able to solve any arithmetical question."

*These subscriptions were paid in installments and the entire amount was not collected as the sum subscribed was larger than was needed to pay the expenses of securing the necessary information and conducting the school.

On the 3d or 4th of January, 1849, these four pupils were taken to Springfield, and on the evening of the 9th they were exhibited before the members of the Legislature in order "to satisfy them that the blind could be and ought to be educated." On the next day a bill for "An Act to establish the Illinois Institution for the Education of the Blind," which had been prepared by Judge William Thomas and introduced by Hon. (afterward governor) Richard Yates, passed both Houses and on January 13, 1849, was approved by Gov. Augustus C. French. The blind children were sent from Springfield to their respective homes.

Much work had been done gratuitously by Mr. Samuel Bacon in order to convince the citizens of Jacksonville of the necessity of a school for the instruction of the blind in Illinois. To convince the public of the necessity of a state school, cost the citizens of Jacksonville in money expended, about four hundred dollars; and in addition to this, prominent and philanthropic residents of that city devoted much valuable time and effort to this worthy cause. It need not then be a matter of surprise that the legislative enactment that brought the school into existence, named in its first section, five Morgan county men as trustees, and that section twelve provided that the school should be opened and continued in or near Jacksonville.

THE STATE SCHOOL.
TRUSTEES.

SAMUEL D. LOCKWOOD, President.

JAMES DUNLAP,
DENNIS ROCKWELL,

W. W. HAPPY,
SAMUEL HUNT.

SAMUEL BACON, Principal.

On February 3, 1849, just twenty-one days after the bill providing for the school became a law, the gentleman named in the first section of the Act, met and organized by electing Judge Samuel D. Lockwood president and Judge James Berdan secretary. At this first meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Bacon was appointed principal of the school at a salary of \$600 per annum, and it was determined that if a suitable building could be secured, he should begin work on the first Monday in April. A few days later Col. Dunlap's "Mansion House" situated a little south and west of Illinois College, was rented for one year, at \$225. Five hundred circulars were issued and distributed among the friends of the blind, announcing the opening of the school at the date named. Mrs. Sarah Graves was appointed matron. Mr. Bacon was in-

structed to procure the necessary books and apparatus, and at the appointed time the doors were thrown open for the reception of sightless students. No pupils came until the following Saturday, April 7th. On that day George Springer of Adams county, and Mary Stuart of Madison county, came to the "Mansion House" and were duly enrolled as students at the Illinois Institution for the Education of the Blind.

From the foregoing it will appear that this institution was the *third* of the twelve state charitable institutions of Illinois to be provided for by legal enactment, and the *second* to open its doors for the reception of inmates. It is interesting to note that all the charitable institutions of Illinois that were established "before the war" were located in Jacksonville.

As before stated the first term of the state school began in April, 1849. It continued without vacation until July 10, 1850, a period of fifteen months. The number of pupils, small at first, gradually increased, until on the 2d of July, 1849, there were fourteen in attendance. At this time Mr. Aaron Rose, a blind man who had been educated in the Ohio Institution, was employed as teacher of music, and Miss Lavinia Booth, a blind lady from the same school, was appointed "teacher of handicraft in the female department." By the end of the term the number of pupils had increased to twenty-three. After a public examination they were dismissed until the first Wednesday of October.

MR. BACON'S RESIGNATION.

On the 24th day of June, 1850, just before the close of the first term of the state school, the Board of Trustees ordered that \$100 be allowed Mr. Bacon to defray his expenses during the summer while he should visit institutions for the blind in Boston, Philadelphia and New York. Three days later, there being some dissatisfaction in regard to salaries, Mr. Bacon, Miss Booth and Mr. Rose tendered their resignations to take effect at the close of the term. These were promptly accepted. A month after this Mr. Rose, at his request, was reinstated, and Mr. Dennis Rockwell was authorized to visit institutions for the blind in the East for the purpose of collecting information, of procuring needed books and apparatus, and of engaging a competent superintendent who should be "a seeing man experienced in the conduct of a blind school."

After leaving Jacksonville, Mr. Bacon was instrumental in

establishing two other schools for the blind; one at Vinton, Iowa, and one at Nebraska City, Neb. He is now (1893) seventy years of age and is residing upon his own farm a few miles from the Nebraska school. He is a living proof that blindness, though very inconvenient, is by no means a bar to financial success.

PREPARATIONS FOR BUILDING.

The legislative enactment establishing the Illinois Institution for the Education of the Blind, provided that "the proceeds of a tax of one-tenth of a mill upon every dollar's worth of taxable property in this State" should annually be paid to the trustees for the purposes set forth in the bill. To enable them to commence building at once, the sum of \$3,000 was appropriated "out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated."

On May 2, 1849, the Board voted to purchase twenty-two and forty-five hundredths acres of land that was a part of the Col. Hardin estate, and is situated about three-fifths of a mile east of the public square in Jacksonville. For this now valuable property they paid \$75 per acre. Mr. Napoleon Koscialowski prepared the plans and specifications for the building. These were accepted and work was begun in September, 1849; but at the close of the first term, July, 1850, the foundation had not been completed.

DR. JOSHUA RHOADS SUPERINTENDENT—1850 to 1874.

In the summer of 1850, Mr. Rockwell visited several schools for the blind in the East, and succeeded in securing as Superintendent of the Illinois Institution, Dr. Joshua Rhoads who had formerly been Superintendent of the Pennsylvania School. Mrs. Rhoads was employed as matron. On the first Wednesday in October, 1850, school opened again in the "Mansion House" with eighteen pupils present. By the first of the following January (1851) the number had increased to twenty-three. In their report at that time, the trustees announced that "the accommodations of the building which is temporarily occupied for the purpose of the institution, are not sufficient and no more pupils can be received except as vacancies may occur in the present number."

In Dr. Rhoads' first report to the trustees we find the following "*Order of Business*":

"Rise at 6; prayers and reading in Bible, 6:45; breakfast 7; literature and music, 8 to 12, with half-hour intermission; dine and

recess 12 to 2; literature and music 2, to 6, with three-quarters of an hour intermission; supper and recess, 6 to 7; history, 7 to 8; retire, 9:30."

Of the progress of the pupils in their studies Dr. Rhoads says:

"Two years only have passed since not one of the pupils of this institution knew the letters of the alphabet. Now, all the pupils but two, read the Inspired Word with pleasure and profit. The benevolent heart of the Christian must thrill with delight, when he beholds the blind enjoying, in their solitude and physical darkness, an intimate communion with the inspired penmen, and feel itself repaid for all the labor, time, and attention bestowed."

During this term Mr. Rose continued in charge of the music while the superintendent himself did all the teaching in the literary department. The girls were taught sewing, knitting and bead work by the matron.

As an indication of the difficulty in securing the necessary "help" at that time, it may be stated that the records show that Dr. Rhoads was allowed \$55.80 "for expenses in bringing two servant girls from Philadelphia."

FAVORABLE LEGISLATION.

An act of the Legislature of 1851 provided that for two years (1851-1852) in addition to the tax already provided for, a tax of one-tenth of a mill on every dollar's worth of taxable property in the state should be assessed and collected, the proceeds to be applied to the completion of the building then in process of erection. It was also provided by the same act that the Governor should appoint five trustees for this institution, and biennially thereafter, should appoint five. The persons appointed in accordance with this act met April 19, 1851, but did not organize until their second meeting which occurred April 29, after their bonds had been approved by the Governor.

TRUSTEES.

SAMUEL D. LOCKWOOD, President.

JAMES DUNLAP,
W. W. HAPPY,

SAMUEL HUNT,
WM. B. WARREN.

DR. JOSHUA RHOADS, Principal.

There was the usual vacation in the summer of 1851, and with the walls of the new building less than half completed school opened again in the "Mansion House" October 1. Some additional as-

sistance was employed, and the superintendent took upon himself the instruction of the male pupils, in brush-making, basket-making, and rope-making.

The writer is unable to learn the number of pupils in attendance during the third term of the school; but at the close of the second biennial period (January, 1853), thirty-three pupils had been enrolled since the opening of the state school and twenty-five were present. The family in the "Mansion House" at that time consisted of Dr. Rhoads, Superintendent and teacher; Mrs. Rhoads, matron and teacher; four daughters of the Superintendent, the eldest being eleven years of age and the youngest under one year; Mr. Rose, teacher of music; Mr. Dunham, assistant in the literary department; twenty-five pupils (eleven males and fourteen females); "a porter and three female domestics by whom all the washing, cooking, etc., for the establishment was done, with the exception of the hire of a washerwoman one day each week."

MORE LEGISLATION.

An act of the Legislature which became a law in the spring of 1853, provided that the number of trustees of the Institution for the Blind should be six inclusive of the Principal who should, *ex officio*, be a member of the Board. It was also provided that a majority of the trustees should reside without the county of Morgan. In accordance with this law Gov. Matteson appointed a new Board of Trustees, and on March 15, 1853, they met and organized.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1853.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| SAMUEL D. LOCKWOOD, | Jacksonville, President. |
| NIVIAN W. EDWARDS, | SAMUEL HUNT, |
| MATTHEW STACY, | SAMUEL MARSHALL, |
| JOSHUA RHOADS, Principal and, <i>ex officio</i> , member of the Board. | |

Afterward Judge Lockwood removed from Jacksonville to Batavia, Ill., and on July 11, 1853, Mr. Stacy became President of the Board.

In the autumn of 1853, school opened again in the "Mansion House;" but in January, 1854, the work on the new building had so far progressed that it could be occupied, and accordingly the pupils with their officers and teachers took possession of their new quarters.

It was not until January, 1855, that the building was fully finished and furnished. The Board of Trustees then announced that they were "prepared to receive as pupils all the blind of either

sex, capable of receiving an education, within our State, who may apply for admission."

In the fall of 1853, James Dunlap was appointed as teacher in the Industrial Department. Soon after this Mrs. Dunham accepted a position as assistant teacher and Mr. Joseph Ramsey (blind) was employed as a teacher of music.

LEGISLATION.

In 1855, that part of the law of 1849 which provided for the levying of a tax of one-tenth of a mill on every dollar's worth of taxable property in the state for the purpose of creating a fund for the Institution for the Blind, was repealed. The amount of money collected under the laws of 1849 and 1851, and paid over to the trustees was, including the \$3,000, special appropriation made per section 14, of the act of incorporation, \$99,431.90. The law of 1855 appropriated to the Institution for the Blind for the next two years after its passage, the sum of \$14,000 per annum.

In May, 1856, plans were made, bids received, and the contract awarded, for building a work-shop sixty feet by thirty feet and two stories in height. The building was to be of brick and to cost between three and four thousand dollars. Soon after this, the building was erected on the ground now occupied by the "East Wing."

January, 1857, the Superintendent reported as follows:

"Every pupil in our first class can make a good brush, a good broom, a tolerable basket, and a strong rope, in addition to his acquirements in literature and music." At this time there were fifty-six pupils in attendance.

LEGISLATION.

By a law in force February 13, 1857, the number of trustees was reduced to five, no two of the trustees to be residents of the same county. It was also provided that no member of the Board should be "employed or appointed in or to any office or place under the authority of the Board; and that no member of the Board should be "directly or indirectly interested in any contract to be made by said Board for any purpose whatever." It was further provided that the accounts of the institution should be so kept and reported as to show the kind, quality, and cost, and of whom bought, of every article purchased. The Board appointed under this law, met and organized April 8, 1857.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1857.

MATTHEW STACY, Jacksonville, President,
 S. D. LOCKWOOD, Batavia, Wm. H. BROWN, Quincy,
 JOHN MAGOUN, WM. BUTLER, Springfield.
 DR. JOSHUA RHOADS, Principal.

The law of 1857 also provided that "in all cases where the parents of pupils sent to the Institution for the Education of the Blind, are too poor to furnish them with good and sufficient clothing, or where said pupils are without parents and unable to furnish themselves with such clothing, the judge of the county court of the county from which they are sent shall certify the same to the Principal who shall procure such necessary clothing and charge the same to said county and present the account with the vouchers to the Auditor of Public Accounts who shall draw upon the county Treasurer for the amount so charged to the county." This law remained in force until the passage of a law now in force, that made the same provision for pupils, but changed the method of collecting the amounts due the institution from the several counties.

To secure the attendance of pupils, notices were sent to the editors of newspapers throughout the state, informing the people that the doors of the institution were open to every blind child within the limits of the state. Once in two years, the Principal accompanied by a number of pupils (usually twelve), visited many large towns giving concerts and exhibitions. At the end of the fifth biennium (January, 1859), fifty-eight pupils were present and ten more were expected to arrive.

In 1857, the Jacksonville & Carrollton Railroad obtained and entered upon, for its own use, a strip of ground about thirty feet wide and nearly 1,000 feet long near the west end of the tract occupied by the institution. February 3d of the same year, the trustees put on record the following declaration:

"The Board can not concede permission for the railroad to pass through its grounds, and the President is appointed to attend to the interests of the institution in this case."

The controversy growing out of this trouble continued, in and out of the courts, until 1869; when, the Board of Trustees protesting, the matter was settled by legislative enactment, the railroad company retaining the land and another and wider strip west of the strip before mentioned and paying therefor into the State treasury the sum of \$5,700. A full account of this unfortunate litigation can be found in the report of the Board of Public Charities, 1876, pp. 130-132.

Some building was done during the year 1857-8. The barn was enlarged and a brick smoke-house built. The latter is still standing, having been converted, several years ago, into an outside water-closet connected with the sewer.

LEGISLATION.

By the law of 1859, the annual appropriation for the institution was reduced from \$14,000 per annum to \$12,000. The latter sum was the amount appropriated for the annual expenses of the institution from this date until 1865.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1860.

MATTHEW STACY, Jacksonville, President,
 S. D. LOCKWOOD, Batavia, D. ROCKWELL, Jacksonville,
 SAMUEL LONG, M. D., JOHN MAGOUN.
 DR. JOSHUA RHOADS, Principal.

In June, 1860, Dr. Samuel Long was instructed to procure an organ for the institution to cost not over \$1,600. He visited St. Louis and purchased of Henry Pilcher an organ with twenty-four stops. This instrument was pronounced at that time by competent judges to be one of the best in the State.

June 19, 1861, probably on account of restlessness on the part of the older pupils and a seeming lack of appreciation of the privileges offered by the state, the Board ordered: "That the term of pupils be limited to five years unless for special reasons to be reported to the Board."

1861 TO 1865.

During the seventh and eighth biennial periods, but little occurred outside the usual routine of earnest, persistent, and cheerful effort on the part of members of the Board, of teachers, and of pupils.

During this period, James Magoun retired from the Board; Dennis Rockwell removed from the State, and Judge Lockwood asked to be relieved from further duties. The places thus made vacant were supplied by Robert Hill of —————, E. B. Hawley of Springfield, William A. Grimshaw of Pittsfield, and William Coffin of Batavia. On the retirement of Judge Lockwood the Board caused the following tribute to be spread upon the records:

"Ordered, That the Board have learned with great regret of the resignation of Judge Lockwood on account of his advanced age. The Board feel that they have lost the leading spirit in the management of the institution from its foundation, and have a high trust that they and their successors may continue to be guided by the same spirit which always guided him."

His period of service was fourteen and one-half years.

In October, 1861, Prof. John Loomis commenced his long and valuable service as a teacher of the blind. During the first few years his salary was \$800 per annum; but in 1865 it was raised to \$1,200; in 1871, to \$1,400 and in 1878, to \$1,500. This last figure is the highest salary ever received by any one employed as a teacher in the Illinois Institution for the Blind. Prof. Loomis was connected with the Institution until 1881, a period of twenty years. There is evidence that the pupils became very strongly attached to him, and, although the methods of instruction employed might not, in some particulars, meet the approval of modern teachers, there is abundant proof that the value of his instruction and influence can not be measured by the standards of worth that are usually applied to human effort.

In 1862 Miss Alice Rhoads began work as a teacher in the primary department. She was employed uninterruptedly, part of the time in the literary department and afterward as teacher of music and leader of the orchestra, until 1874.

In the summer of 1862, Oscar Butts, of Adams county, a young man who had left school without permission the previous year, made a written complaint to the Board regarding the general management of the Institution and charging the superintendent with inefficiency and "arbitrary and despotic exercise of power." A special meeting of the Board was called which continued two days (June 25 and 26, 1862), the members patiently listening to witnesses introduced at the suggestion of Butts. At a subsequent meeting the following statement was put on record:

"The trustees present who heard the testimony against and for Dr. Rhoads, having carefully considered the subject, have unanimously come to the conclusion that the charges exhibited against Dr. Rhoads have not been sustained.

"Resolved by the trustees, that we affirm the decision of the Board made in December, 1861, that the Illinois Institution for the

Blind is entitled to the confidence of the public and is answering the purpose for which the institution was established.

“Resolved, That hereafter no pupil shall be returned to the school for more than five years, unless the trustees, for good reasons shown to them, shall otherwise order.”

On the 16th day of June, 1863, the Board caused the following to be spread upon the records, and copies sent to the newspapers of Jacksonville, Springfield, Chicago, and elsewhere, with the request that it be published:

“Resolved, That we have witnessed with pleasure and very great satisfaction, the exercises of the institution under the charge of Dr. Joshua Rhoads and Mrs. Rhoads assisted by able and experienced teachers, in the respective branches of study in this institution, and express our great satisfaction at the proficiency shown by the pupils and return our thanks to the Principals and their assistants for their able management of the institution during the past year, as shown by the progress of the pupils.

Signed. MATT. STACY,
 E. B. HAWLEY,
 WILLIAM A. GRIMSHAW.

Near the close of the year 1864, Supt. Rhoads stated as follows:

“This institution now contains sixty-eight blind persons of good moral character, kindly in their deportment to their teachers and to each other. About one-half of the number were either born blind or lost their sight in infancy; the other half of them became blind from various accidents to which all are subject. Thirty-two of the pupils are males and thirty-six are females.

1865 TO 1869.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1865.

MATTHEW STACY, Jacksonville, President,
WILLIAM A. GRIMSHAW, Pittsfield, E. B. HAWLEY, Springfield,
M. SHAEFFER, Salem, H. BUCK, Decatur.
DR. JOSHUA RHOADS, Principal.

LEGISLATION.

The annual appropriation for ordinary expense was raised in 1865 to \$20,000, and remained at that figure until 1869. In 1867 there was an especial appropriation of \$1,000 per annum (1867 and

1868) "to pay for repairs of buildings and improvements." This was the beginning of a regular appropriation for repairs and improvements, the amount received for this purpose being known as the R. & I. fund.

Near the beginning of this period, furnaces were introduced into the building in place of stoves with which all the rooms had been heated up to this time.

In October, 1865, Prof. A. E. Wimmerstedt was employed as a teacher of music. He continued to serve as teacher and musical director till the summer of 1879—a period of fourteen years.

In January, 1867, the trustees reported eighty pupils in attendance and "no accommodation for any more." It was a period of high prices and the Board recommended that the appropriation for ordinary expenses be increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per annum.

In 1868 Miss Fannie Maginnis commenced a long period of service as teacher in the literary department. She resigned in 1879, on account of the illness of her mother; was re-elected in 1881, and continued in the work until 1887.

1869 AND 1870.

LEGISLATION.

In 1869 the appropriation for ordinary expense was increased to \$25,000 per annum and \$5,000 was appropriated for repairs and improvements. An act entitled, "An Act to provide for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners of Public Charities" was approved April 9, 1869. Since that time the state charitable institutions have been under the most vigilant supervision of that Board, the active officer of which, has been from the beginning up to the present time (April 1, 1893), their Secretary, Rev. Fred H. Wines.

The act of 1869 further provided that the number of trustees for each of the state charitable institutions should be three.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1869.

MATTHEW STACY, Jacksonville, President,
E. B. HAWLEY, Springfield, WILLIAM A. GRIMSHAW, Pittsfield.

At ten o'clock on the morning of April 20, 1869, smoke and flames were seen issuing from various parts of the roof of the main

building of the Illinois Institution for the Blind. The following statement from the Superintendent's report dated November 30, 1870, gives a succinct account of the fire and of the rebuilding.

"The citizens of Jacksonville rushed in haste to attempt the suppression of the fire. A profuse supply of water was at hand —one hundred and twenty barrels being in tanks in the fifth story of the building; but the progress of the fire was so rapid that nothing availed to check its ravages. In a few short hours, the comfortable home for the blind had become a mass of smouldering ruins.

"The fire is supposed to have originated from a defective smoke flue in the attic of the building, and to have been making progress there for four hours before it was discovered. When first discovered, the flames were breaking through the roof, and the attic could not be entered from the scuttle in the fifth story ceiling on account of the heat and flame.

"The citizens succeeded in rescuing all the inmates, and in removing their clothing. The books, papers, and much of the furniture, including seven pianos, were also removed in safety. The citizens of Jacksonville opened their houses to our pupils, and, in a few hours, they were all installed in comfortable homes, and well provided for until we could arrange to resume the charge of them.

"Mrs. Eliza Ayers, without solicitation, at once proffered to us her property, known as the Berean College, and in a week we had our pupils comfortably domiciled in it, and in our workshops. The school was at once resumed, and our pupils re-commenced their studies with accustomed cheerfulness. The school was continued in session until the usual time for vacation, June 1, when the pupils returned to their homes.

"The buildings being insured for \$20,000, and some other funds being applicable to the purpose of rebuilding, it was determined to allow no unnecessary delay in providing a new building. Suitable designs were procured, and work was begun on a new building on the site of the old edifice. This building was pushed forward with such industry and energy that it was finished and occupied by the officers and pupils on January 26, 1870.

"The building is seventy-two feet by seventy-two feet, and is three stories high. It is placed on the site of the former building, and is planned so as to be the "west wing" to a future main

building and east wing, to be erected when the Legislature shall appropriate funds for its erection."

"The cost of the new building was \$34,069.39. Of this amount \$20,000 was received from the insurance companies, and, as the school was necessarily closed, a portion of the amount appropriated for repairs and improvements, and current expenses became available for building."

It may be here stated that the Board of Trustees in beginning to rebuild almost before the foundation stones of the old building were cold, and in applying, not alone the insurance money, but funds appropriated for ordinary expense, to this purpose, pushing the structure to completion in the space of nine months, acted without the sanction of law. They however did this under the advice of Governor Palmer, and of individual members of the Legislature of 1869. The responsibility was upon themselves; but so fully did their promptness of decision and energy of action in the interest of the unfortunate class placed in their care, commend themselves to the general public, that no one has been found to make complaint, either formal or otherwise, of their assumption of authority; though it has sometimes been said in an undertone that the desire to retain the institution at Jacksonville had something to do with their very commendable activity in providing the new building for the School for the Blind.

The new building contained only about half as much available space as the former one; yet the school was continued in all its departments. In the autumn of 1870, there were seventy-four pupils present, and the Superintendent was obliged to refuse admission to many others.

1871 TO 1874.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

MATTHEW STACY, Jacksonville, President.
 E. B. HAWLEY, Springfield, WILLIAM A. GRIMSHAW, Pittsfield.
 DR. JOSHUA RHOADS, Principal.

In 1871 the annual appropriation for the ordinary expenses of the institution was reduced from \$25,000 to \$20,000; and in 1873, from \$20,000 to \$17,500.

On November 20, 1871, Miss Clara E. Greenleaf was employed as assistant matron and, in December, 1872, was promoted to the position of primary teacher. She resigned in the summer of 1878,

on account of poor health, after having been connected with the institution six years and five months.

The building erected in 1869, was designed as a west wing of a main building yet to be erected. Before the work was begun on this "wing," Messrs. Dilger and Jungerfeldt, architects, of Springfield, Ill., were employed to prepare the elevation and ground plans for a structure consisting of a main building and two wings. In 1872, the Board made a very earnest appeal to the Legislature then in session, for an appropriation sufficient for the erection of the central portion of the proposed structure. On May 3, 1873, a bill received the Governor's signature, which provided for an appropriation of \$75,000 for this purpose.

Within a month from that time the board advertised for bids for the construction of the "main building." On July 10 thirteen bids had been received. That of Loar & Bruce being the lowest, the contract was awarded to them, the sum named being \$58,560. The work of building was immediately commenced and with the usual delays, changes in contract, and some additions thereto, commendable progress was made. It was apparent in the spring of 1874, that the building would be ready for occupancy at the beginning of the next term.

In the meantime Hon. John L. Beveridge became governor of Illinois.

A new Board of Trustees was appointed, and at the last meeting of the retiring Board (June 2, 1874), they caused the following tribute to the officers and teachers of the institution to be spread upon the records:

Resolved, That at this our last meeting, as trustees of this institution, we part with the officers and employes thereof, yet feeling in them the same confidence which their zeal, integrity, and devotion to duty has caused us to repose in them in the past.

Resolved, That we feel our hearts oppressed, in consequence of the painful illness of our long-time friend and faithful, upright, public servant, Dr. Joshua Rhoads, preventing him from being present with us, it being the first time in our official connection with this institution; and we now give to him our most cheering congratulations, that to him is the consciousness of a life spent in public service for twenty-four years in the education and training of the blind of Illinois, discharging with uprightness and with a genial heart and true manhood his important duties as Superintendent of this institution; and we, as trustees, sympathize most cordially with him and his amiable family in his present affliction; and we return to him our sincere thanks for his incessant labors and for his pleasant intercourse with us in our official capacity, in which his family so considerately co-operated.

Resolved, That we especially present to Mrs. Rhoads, as Matron, our most

hearty thanks for her truly motherly sympathy and charge over the numerous children who have passed under her kind, considerate and useful training, during the long period she has presided over this institution, being from its foundation.

Resolved, That Miss Alice Rhoads, has our sincere thanks for her exceedingly happy and efficient effort in training those of the pupils who have been under her charge, in literature and in music, and we feel it to be our duty to say that she can not be surpassed in her vocation as a teacher of yóuth.

Resolved, That Mr. John Loomis, as senior teacher, has always merited and received our confidence, as he now fully possesses the same, and we commend him as unsurpassed if not unequaled in capacity as a teacher in the position he has occupied.

Resolved, That Miss Frances Maginnis and Miss Clara E. Greenleaf, as teachers in this institution, has each discharged her duty in a highly acceptable manner and to our entire satisfaction.

Resolved, That we, with pleasure, express our satisfaction in the progress of the pupils of the institution during the past term, and commend them to the public as worthy objects of public care, deserving the same by good conduct and entitled hereto as children of the great State of Illinois.

On June 4, 1874, the new Board consisting of John Mathers, of Jacksonville; John H. Wood, of Virginia, and John H. Lewis, of Galesburg, met and organized. Mr. Mathers was chosen President, and Bazzil Davenport Secretary *pro tem*. The resignations of Dr. Joshua Rhoads and Mrs. Rosanna J. Rhoads, to take effect August 1, 1874, were read and accepted.

On motion, they proceeded to the election of a superintendent. Several names were placed in nomination and on the first ballot Dr. F. W. Phillips received one vote; Prof. John Loomis, one, and Rev. W. H. De Motte, one. On the second ballot, Dr. Phillips received two votes and Rev. De Motte, one. Dr. Phillips was declared elected. Mrs. Lucy J. Phillips was chosen matron. Prof. Loomis, Miss Alice S. Rhoads, Miss Fannie Maginnis and Prof. A. E. Wimmerstedt were re-elected as teachers. At a subsequent meeting the resignation of Miss Rhoads was read and accepted.

At the close of Dr. Rhoads' term as Superintendent, blind persons to the number of 443, had availed themselves of the privileges of the institution and seventy-two were present.

1874 TO 1876.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

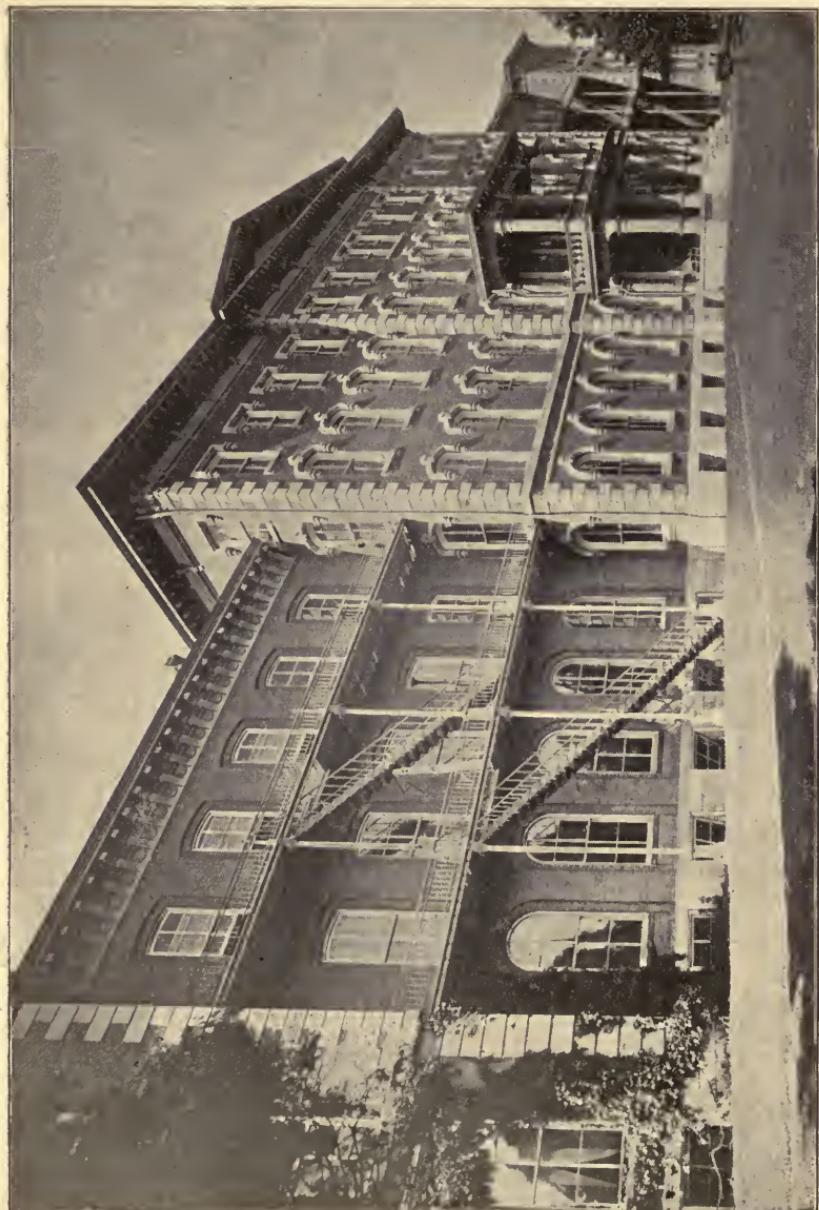
JOHN MATHERS, Jacksonville, President,

JOHN H. WOOD, Virginia, JOHN H. LEWIS, Galesburg.

DR. F. W. PHILLIPS, Superintendent.

With very few changes in the corps of teachers and officers, Dr. Phillips commenced his long period (fourteen years) of service

MAIN BUILDING.



as Superintendent of the Institution for the Blind. Capt. William A. Kirby was appointed foreman of the workshop, and Mrs. A. C. Kirby teacher in the literary department, while Prof. T. D. Nutting and Miss Fannie De Motte were employed as teachers of music.

Immediately after the completion of the new building, circulars giving notice of the increased capacity of the institution, and requesting friends of the blind to see that those in need of the educational privileges thus furnished by the state were induced to avail themselves of these advantages, were printed and sent into every county. As a result of this effort, the number of pupils was increased from seventy-two to one hundred and seven, the latter being the number in attendance December 1, 1874.

In 1875 B. B. Gray was appointed foreman of the work department in place of Captain Kirby, resigned. Mr. Gray had been employed as a carpenter and builder at the institution during the superintendency of Dr. Rhoads. He is yet (1893) an efficient officer of the institution, having served continuously for eighteen years.

LEGISLATION.

By an Act of the Legislature in force June 1, 1874, \$5,000, which had before been appropriated and had not been drawn from the State treasury, was made available for building purposes, and Section 2 of the same Act appropriated \$10,000 for furnishing. Adding this \$5,000 to the amount appropriated by the Act of May 3, 1873, made a total of \$80,000. The new trustees found that "contracts had been entered into and improvements made amounting in the aggregate to \$82,332.34, being \$2,332.34 in excess of the appropriations made." Disclaiming any responsibility for this, they declared the claims to be just and asked the Legislature to make appropriation for the payment of the same with ten per cent. interest from the first day of August, 1874. Two years later this request was renewed, and the General Assembly of 1877 appropriated a sum sufficient to pay these claims with interest at the rate named.

The Board further declared that although the former board had, "by some mistake or oversight, made improvements in excess of the appropriation," additional improvements and repairs were needed which demanded the consideration of the Legislature.

The "center building" was heated by steam, the boilers for this purpose being located in the rear part of the basement. The wing was imperfectly heated by four furnaces. The Board reported that

convenience, comfort, safety and economy alike demanded that there should be constructed a building for the reception of the boilers, the same to be connected by a tunnel with the main structure, and that the wing should be equipped with steam-heating apparatus. In response to their request for \$8,000, the Legislature appropriated \$5,000 for building a boiler-house, stack and tunnel, and supplying the needed pipes and coils for the wing.

The Board deeming this amount insufficient, it appears that they inaugurated the custom of regarding the amounts received from counties and individuals for clothing, as well as the amounts of sales of live stock and articles manufactured in the shops and sewing-room, as a "contingent fund" which they applied wherever it might seem to them desirable. (This custom was continued until July 1, 1881; the sum of the orders paid from this fund sometimes being more than \$1,500 per annum. Since that time the receipts for clothing and sales of stock, etc., are returned to the ordinary expense fund from which the amounts paid for clothing, for feed, for live stock and for material to be manufactured, are always drawn.)

In explanation of this the Board in their biennial report, dated October 1, 1876, make the following statement:

"We asked the Legislature for \$8,000 to build an engine and boiler-house, and to heat the wing with steam, and received \$5,000. The building which we were able to erect after steam-heating had been paid for, is not such as we desire, but will answer our purpose for years. We could not have built as we did, and when we did, had we not been able to add our sales and receipts to the amount the state gave us. We did this when we wanted our sales and receipts for another purpose, because the amount given us was not sufficient to build, and the safety and health of the pupils and security of the buildings, required that the boilers should be removed."

"The entire building is now uniformly and comfortably heated, and the fire removed from it, except in the kitchen."

The ordinary expenses for the year 1874 were several thousand dollars more than the appropriation, and the Legislature, in the spring of 1875, appropriated \$5,000 "to defray the increased ordinary expense of the Institution for the Blind," and provided that the act should "take effect and be in force on and after its passage."

In the Superintendent's report for the same year we find the following very courteous tribute to Dr. Rhoads:

Since my last report to you, my predecessor, Dr. Joshua Rhoads, has died. His health, feeble at the time of his resignation, continued to fail until February 1, 1876, when death relieved him of his sufferings. A graduate of the Pennsylvania University of Medicine, he was engaged in the active practice of his profession for a number of years. He was principal of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind for four years. In 1850 he was elected principal of this institution, which position he occupied for twenty-four years. Possessed of a good mind, which was well cultivated, he was qualified, both by nature and habit, for the work to which he gave so much of his life. Methodical, earnest, and in love with his work, the institution was well conducted and successful under his administration. At the time of his death he had entered upon his seventieth year.

1876 TO 1880.

The appropriation for ordinary expense for the biennium beginning July, 1875, was \$25,000 per annum, with \$1,000 per annum, for repairs and improvements; for the biennium beginning July, 1877, the appropriation for ordinary expense was \$28,000 per annum, and the amount for repairs and improvements, \$1,250 per annum. Early in 1877, Governor Cullom appointed a new Board of Trustees for the Institution for the Blind, and on June 4 the appointees met and organized.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1877.

A. C. WADSWORTH, Jacksonville, President.
 N. W. BRANSON, Petersburg, A. G. BURR, Carrollton.
 DR. F. W. PHILLIPS, Superintendent.

For the term 1876-77 Dr. Phillips says in his report to the trustees "ninety-five permits have been sent out [to pupils], divided as follows: seventy-six returned, three re-admitted, and sixteen new pupils. An addition of \$3,000 to the appropriation made for ordinary expense by the last Legislature, would enable me to admit twenty-five more pupils. I have on hand from which to select that number, eighty-nine applications. Four of these applicants are too old, nine are too young, and one is from another state. The remaining seventy-five are proper subjects for our care and instruction, but we can not now receive them."

Mrs. Marion P. Wimmerstedt was employed for half her time for one year, as music teacher, her term of service beginning October, 1876.

At the beginning of the next term (1877-78) Miss Lizzie B.

Simpson was employed as a teacher in the literary department, and Miss Hattie Hobbs as a music teacher in place of Mrs. Wimmerstedt. Miss Simpson retained her position until her resignation was tendered and accepted July, 1885.

Miss Alice Dickey was employed in place of Miss Greenleaf resigned. Mrs. Alice Dickey Harsha resigned in the summer of 1884.

In April, 1879, Miss Harriet B. Reed was employed as teacher in the junior division in place of Miss Maginnis; Prof. H. Bretherick, in place of Prof. Wimmerstedt as musical director. Miss Reed's term of service continued until January, 1886; Prof. Bretherick's, until the summer of 1883.

NUMBER OF PUPILS ENROLLED.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Term of 1876-77..... | 96 | Term of 1877-78..... | 123 |
| Term of 1878-79..... | 133 | Term of 1879-80..... | 142 |

In response to the request of the trustees, the Legislature of 1879 made appropriations in addition to the usual amount for current expenses, as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| For new fronts to, and for resetting boilers..... | \$ 784 00 |
| For stand-pipe, hose and connections..... | 850 00 |
| For dining-room and kitchen..... | 2,400 00 |

With these funds the necessary work was done in the boiler-house, and a large water tank was placed in the attic of the wing and the necessary connections made to carry water to any part of the building. A kitchen was built and a dining-room provided that would accommodate one hundred and fifty pupils.

1880 TO 1884.

In the beginning of this period, the Board of Trustees consisted of the persons appointed by Governor Cullom in 1877, namely: Hon. A. C. Wadsworth, Judge Branson, and Judge Burr; but on the death of Judge Burr, June 10, 1882, Dr. J. M. Davis, of Carrollton, was appointed to fill the vacancy. The following tribute to Judge Burr was prepared by his colleagues, and the same was published and spread upon the records:

IN MEMORIAM.

Hon. Albert Gallatin Burr, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Institution for the Education of the Blind, died at his residence in Carrollton, Ill., June 10, 1882.

We had known Judge Burr for years, and to know him long and well was but to know him with increasing esteem and admiration.

As a jurist, his integrity, his manliness, and his legal attainments commanded confidence and respect, and his death called forth universal grief in the judicial district over which he presided.

Our association with him as trustee of the Institution for the Blind, which began June 4, 1877, and closed when his life ended, was characterized by unity of thought and action. We ever found him attentive to the duties of his office, interested in the affairs of the institution, and anxious for its welfare.

In our intimate acquaintance with him, we found him a Christian gentleman, easy of access, pleasant in social intercourse, affable in his demeanor, cheerful in mind, though at times a great sufferer, and always hopeful of the future.

(Signed)

A. C. WADSWORTH,
N. W. BRANSON.

LEGISLATION.

The appropriations for current expenses were as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1879-80, Ordinary expense, \$21,000; repairs and improvements..... | \$1,000 00 |
| 1880-81, Ordinary expense, \$25,000; repairs and improvements..... | \$1,000 00 |
| 1881-82, Ordinary expense, \$22,000; repairs and improvements..... | \$1,500 00 |
| 1882-83, Ordinary expense, \$25,000; repairs and improvements..... | \$1,500 00 |

In addition to the usual appropriations, the Legislature of 1881 made the following special appropriations:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| For building east wing..... | \$33,000 00 |
| For school apparatus and musical instruments..... | 2,500 00 |
| For building barn, coal-house and shop..... | 12,000 00 |
| For engine and laundry machinery..... | 1,440 00 |

The Legislature of 1883 appropriated as follows:

| | |
|---|------------|
| For fence on east, north, and west side of grounds..... | \$1,200 00 |
| For purchasing twenty-two acres of pasture land..... | 2,500 00 |
| For steam mangle..... | 550 00 |

With the funds thus provided, the east wing, containing twenty-eight rooms, the inside work being of yellow pine finished in oil and the openings between the wings and center building protected by iron fire-doors, was completed in time for the opening of the term of 1882-83.

A brick workshop two stories high and containing eight rooms, was built, it being located a little northeast of the east wing of the main building. A brick barn was built a few rods in the rear of the boiler-house, and between the boiler-house and the barn, was erected a substantial coal-house. When these improvements had been made and settlements had been made with the contractors, there remained in the treasury, of the \$12,000 appropriated, \$1.08.

Twenty-two acres of most excellent pasture land, about half a

mile northeast of the buildings, was purchased, and this continues to furnish ample summer feed for the eighteen to twenty cows necessary to supply milk for the inmates of the institution.

Half a mile of substantial fence was built which is yet standing, and needs but little repair. The drain was provided and the necessary laundry machinery purchased.

On June 9, 1881, Miss Susan Draper was elected teacher of music (piano), which position she has filled acceptably since that date.

October 11, 1882, Miss A. L. Nichols (blind) was employed as a teacher in the primary division. She resigned in 1885.

October 10, 1883, Miss Annie Martin was employed in the literary department. She resigned in 1887. On the same date, Miss Kate Smith was employed half her time as teacher of vocal music, and Mrs. Annie Smith two-fifths of her time as teacher of organ. Mrs. Kate Smith Dummer and Mrs. Annie Smith resigned in 1885.

The number of pupils enrolled was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Term of 1880-81....120 pupils. | Term of 1881-82...128 pupils. |
| Term of 1882-83....157 pupils. | Term of 1883-84...168 pupils. |

1884 TO 1888.

TRUSTEES.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| A. C. WADSWORTH, Jacksonville, President., | |
| N. W. BRANSON, Petersburg, | J. M. DAVIS, Carrollton. |
| DR. F. W. PHILLIPS, Superintendent. | |

On the death of Dr. Davis, in 1885, Hon. Benjamin F. Funk of Bloomington was appointed to fill the vacancy. In the report to Governor Oglesby, dated September 30, 1886, we find the following:

"We have lost from our Board, by death, Dr. J. M. Davis of Carrollton, a man worthy and well qualified for the position he occupied, who was interested in the work of educating the blind and whose loss we regret."

LEGISLATION.

The appropriations for current expenses were as follows:

| | |
|---|------------|
| 1883-84, Ordinary expense, \$32,000; repairs and improvements | \$1,000 00 |
| 1884-85, Ordinary expense, \$32,000; repairs and improvements | \$1,500 00 |
| 1885-86, Ordinary expense, \$30,000; repairs and improvements | \$1,500 00 |
| 1886-87, Ordinary expense, \$30,000; repairs and improvements | \$1,500 00 |

In addition to the usual appropriations, the Legislature of 1885 made the following special appropriations:

| | |
|--|------------|
| For the construction of a refrigerator and storehouse..... | \$4,000 00 |
| For the extension of the sewer..... | 500 00 |
| For the purchase of a pipe-organ..... | 3,000 00 |

With the funds thus provided, the sewer was extended and a pipe-organ, a most excellent instrument built by Hook & Hastings of Boston, Mass., was put in place and used for the first time December 25, 1885. The amount appropriated for a storehouse and refrigerator was unsatisfactory to the trustees and to the Superintendent. Nevertheless they proceeded to build as best they could, the building erected being of brick, twenty-two feet by sixty feet and two stories in height and situated northwest of the main building.

TEACHERS.

On the resignation of Mrs. Alice Dickey Harsha in the summer of 1884, Mrs. Mary Burr, widow of Judge A. G. Burr, was employed to fill the vacancy. Of this appointment Dr. Phillips says in his report to the trustees: "It affords me the greatest pleasure to thus remember the kindness of Judge Burr in his intercourse with those connected with the Institution, and his faithfulness to his duties as a trustee." Mrs. Burr continued her work as a teacher until the summer of 1891.

At the beginning of the term 1885-86 four new teachers were employed: Prof. Blanpied who was musical director for one year and Mr. Ira William Davenport who was employed in the literary department until 1887; George R. Parker, a former pupil of the Institution and Mrs. Mollie Phillips. Mrs. Phillips resigned in 1887. Mr. Parker is still numbered among the teachers in the literary department.

At the beginning of the term 1886-87, Miss Anne Wakely was employed as teacher in the literary department and Miss Emma Des Plaines, a former pupil, as a teacher of music. Prof. Wallace P. Day was employed as musical director. Miss Wakely taught one year and Miss Des Plaines four years. Prof. Day, who had previously had several years experience as teacher of the blind in Canada still remains at the head of the musical department.

At the beginning of the term 1887-88, Mrs. Eliza Caldwell, Miss Mattie Bevans, and Miss Lydia Hamilton took their places as teachers. Mrs. Caldwell taught the girls of the intermediate division

till the summer of 1891. Miss Hamilton had charge of the senior division for five years. She resigned on account of serious ill health. Miss Bevans taught the intermediate class of boys until 1890. During the term of 1890-91, she taught mathematics to the pupils of all grades between the kindergarten and the high school, and since that time has taught geography to the same classes.

NUMBER OF PUPILS ENROLLED.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Term of 1884-85..... | 150 | Term of 1885-86..... | 168 |
| Term of 1886-87..... | 186 | Term of 1887-88..... | 171 |

DEATH OF SUPT. F. W. PHILLIPS.

On January 17, 1888, after a painful illness, Dr. F. W. Phillips passed to his reward. There was a special session of the Board of Trustees, called for January 19, to take appropriate action concerning the death of the Superintendent. Mr. W. S. Phillips was elected Secretary of the Board and the following tribute proposed and offered for adoption by Hon. N. W. Branson was spread upon the records:

“The Board of Trustees convened in special session immediately after the sad but sacred duties pertaining to the final interment of the late Superintendent of this institution, feeling acutely the magnitude of our loss would pay our heart-felt tribute to the memory of the deceased.”

“Whatever honors can be paid to the memory of Dr. F. W. Phillips will be worthily bestowed. No tribute which affection may dictate can be worded in language too strong. The late superintendent fully appreciated the responsibility resting upon him in ministering to the mental, moral, and physical welfare of the pupils under his charge; and he gave to the discharge of his duties his best energies. His heart was filled with sympathy for those whose misfortunes made them the worthy recipients of this noble public charity. With love for this special work and with a mind fully equipped by nature for the discharge of high public trusts, he gave himself up, with entire singleness of purpose, to the performance of duty.”

“In the management of pupils, he was quick to foresee and prompt to provide for their wants. Courteous, kind, and affectionate, in his intercourse with them, he yet could be firm as the occasion might demand, and was always just. His relations with all who were in any way associated with him were of the most kindly character.”

“As an executive officer he displayed rare ability. The institution grew and expanded under his wise and prudent administration, and attained the measure of usefulness which its founders and

prompters had in view. The public funds were applied exclusively to their proper uses as contemplated by the law and were expended with economy, with sagacity, and with unquestionable integrity. Under his thoughtful and efficient management, the entire institution in all its branches and departments worked like a perfect piece of mechanism without jar or friction."

"Our Superintendent was a man of principle and of purity; stainless in character and spotless in reputation; remarkable for the great variety and extent of his attainments; and he exemplified in himself the highest attributes of domestic life."

"Although his life was lengthened out to three-score years yet the death of an upright and useful man, however long deferred, comes always too soon, but we are not without consolation in the recollection of his many virtues and in the reflection that it was our happy privilege to have been so intimately associated with him in his labor of love; and we, the members of this Board, counting ourselves as not the least affectionate among the many friends of our departed brother, will cherish with unfailing tenderness and love, his precious memory and the priceless inheritance of his virtues."

(Signed) A. C. WADSWORTH,
B. F. FUNK,
N. W. BRANSON.

At the time of Dr. Phillips' death blind persons to the number of nine hundred and three had availed themselves of the privileges of the institution and one hundred and sixty-four were present.

1888 TO 1890.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 1888.

A. C. WADSWORTH, Jacksonville, President,
N. W. BRANSON, Petersburg, B. F. FUNK, Bloomington.
W. S. PHILLIPS, Superintendent.

On May 27, 1888, Mr. W. S. Phillips, son of Dr. F. W. Phillips was elected superintendent. Fourteen years of the life of Mr. Phillips had been spent at the institution. He had been book-keeper and purchasing agent and was familiar with the details of the work in every department.

To the arduous labors of his new position he devoted all his energies. He made apparent to the members of the Thirty-sixth General Assembly the needs of the institution the result of which was increased appropriations for ordinary expense and generous provision for necessary improvements.

LEGISLATION—REGULAR APPROPRIATION.

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1887-88, Ordinary expense, \$32,000; repairs and improvements..... | \$1,500 00 |
| 1888-89, Ordinary expense, \$32,000; repairs and improvements..... | 1,500 00 |
| 1889-90, Ordinary expense, \$38,000; repairs and improvements..... | 2,000 00 |

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Legislature of 1887:

| | |
|---|------------|
| For paving one-half the width of street..... | \$3,400 00 |
| For building laundry and purchasing appliances..... | 5,000 00 |
| For fire-escapes..... | 1,200 00 |

Legislature of 1889:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| For repairs to cornice..... | \$ 1,000 00 |
| For piano-tuning and repair department..... | 3,000 00 |
| For cottage for girls..... | 18,000 00 |
| For covered walk for girls..... | 1,000 00 |
| For repairs to chapel..... | 4,350 00 |

With these funds, work was done and buildings erected as follows:

East State Street (to the center of the street), in front of the grounds of the institution, was paved with vitrified brick. A brick laundry, thirty by sixty feet was erected and equipped with all needed appliances; complete fire-escapes were provided for the main building. The cornice of the main building was thoroughly repaired. Of the \$1,000 appropriated for this purpose, \$455.97 reverted to the state treasury.

A most elegant building was erected near the west end of the grounds. This edifice is of brick and is known as the Girls' Cottage. It is now (1893), occupied by four of our teachers and about forty blind girls, there being from two to four in each room. In this building the pupils do their own "room-work."

The repairs to the chapel were made necessary by a serious settling of the floor, and a fear of dangerous imperfection in the walls themselves. The settling occurred when there was a large audience upon the floor, and through the presence of mind of the Superintendent, W. S. Phillips, a serious catastrophe was averted. Competent advice was secured and the chapel (and consequently the dining-room beneath it) was greatly enlarged and made thoroughly substantial and secure.

An attractive exercise walk was built with the \$1,000 appropriated for this purpose.



THE GIRLS' COTTAGE, 1880.

With regard to the expenditure of the \$3,000 appropriated for the piano-tuning and repair department, there was some slight misunderstanding between the Secretary of the Commissioners of Public Charities on the one hand, and the Superintendent and trustees on the other hand. It resulted in the expenditure of this money for the most part for tools to be used in tuning and repairing, and in the payment of the salary of a competent teacher in tuning, for several years.

It is not improper to say that the special appropriations made by the Legislature of 1889, were secured largely through the efforts of Mr. Phillips, and that the improvements that were thereby made possible, a brief description of which appears upon the pages immediately preceding this, were largely due to his enterprise and administrative ability. The Board of Trustees, too, during this period (Hon. A. C. Wadsworth, Judge N. W. Branson, and Hon. B. F. Funk), were all men of exceptional worth and ability. Alive to the interests of the institution, they spared neither time nor effort in its behalf. In spite of some unpleasant episodes, the historian is obliged—is pleased, to declare that this was a period of unusual prosperity.

TEACHERS AND OFFICERS.

In October, 1888, Mr. Charles A. Hinchee was employed as boys' supervisor and teacher in the physical culture department. He resigned in February, 1890, and Maj. C. E. McDougall was elected to fill the vacancy.

At the beginning of the term 1889-90 Thomas Dower, a former pupil who had been acting as assistant foreman in the broom-shop, was put on the pay roll.

In the autumn of 1889 Miss Margaret Taylor was employed and put in charge of a kindergarten. The Superintendent selected the largest and best room at his command and caused it to be fitted up and furnished with every needed appliance. This was the beginning of the kindergarten work in the institution. It should continue as long as the institution lasts. Miss Taylor resigned in 1891.

NUMBER OF PUPILS ENROLLED.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Term of 1888-89 | 171. | Term of 1889-90..... | 188. |
|-----------------------|------|----------------------|------|

At the close of this period, blind persons to the number of nine hundred and seventy-eight had availed themselves of the privileges of the institution.

1890 TO APRIL 1, 1893.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1890.

A. C. WADSWORTH, Jacksonville, President,
 N. W. BRANSON, Petersburg, BENJAMIN F. FUNK, Bloomington.
 FRANK H. HALL, Superintendent.

On July 1, 1890, Mr. Frank H. Hall, who had had twenty-five years' experience as teacher and Superintendent in the public schools of Illinois, took his place as Superintendent of the Institution for the Blind having previously made a brief visit to, and study of, the institutions of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Louisville.

LEGISLATION—REGULAR APPROPRIATION.

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1890-91, Ordinary expense, \$38,000; repairs and improvements..... | \$2,000 00 |
| 1891-92, Ordinary expense, \$40,000; repairs and improvements..... | 2,000 00 |
| 1892-93, Ordinary Expense, \$40,000; repairs and improvements..... | 2,000 00 |

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS—1891.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| For constructing and furnishing a building to be used as a dormitory for blind shop-hands..... | \$12,000 00 |
| For enlarging and repairing the boiler-house, etc. | 3,640 00 |
| For constructing a kitchen and bakery..... | 7,500 00 |
| For extra repairs, improvements and appliances necessary to provide suitable accommodations for sick inmates | 2,000 00 |
| For purchasing apparatus, school and mechanical..... | 3,000 00 |

These funds have been for the most part expended.

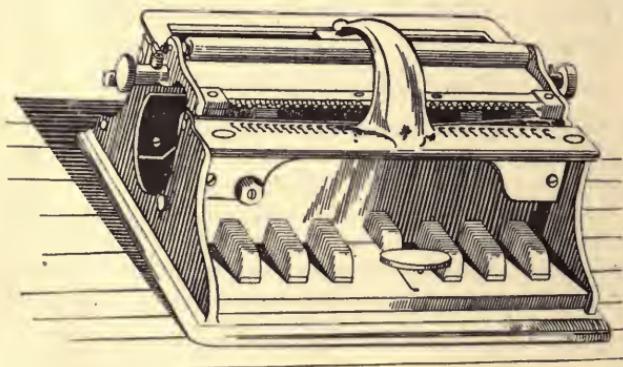
A building in which are sleeping-rooms, sitting-room and reading-room, sufficient for fifty blind men, was erected a few rods east of the main building. It is now occupied by thirty-eight men, while two rooms are used for instruction and practice in piano-tuning. The foreman of the shop also has rooms for himself and wife in this building.

A new sixteen-foot, sixty-inch boiler was set and the boiler-house enlarged, so that when it shall become necessary to cast aside the three fourteen-foot, forty-eight-inch boilers now in use, they may be replaced with boilers equal in capacity to the one recently purchased. A large double-acting steam pump was purchased, and so set and connected that water may be drawn from either of two wells or from the city water mains, and thrown into the boilers or into the pipes that supply water for ordinary use and for protection against fire.

An ample kitchen and bakery were provided, a twelve-foot rotary oven was set in place, in which all our baking is done. At present we use one barrel of flour each day while school is in session.

Near the new kitchen a convenient store-room was provided, and the old store-house converted into a hospital. This is now an isolated building two stories high with four rooms, besides halls and closets on the first floor. These rooms are a boys' ward, a girls' ward, a sleeping-room for nurses, and a kitchen. Ordinarily the rooms on the first floor furnish sufficient accommodation for our sick inmates; but in case of severe illness, epidemic or contagious disease, the second floor can be occupied.

With the \$3,000 for purchasing apparatus, we have provided valuable broom machinery for the shop, philosophical apparatus and physiological models for the high school, specimens in natural



THE HALL BRAILLE-WRITER.

history for all departments, and appliances for the kindergarten. A complete printing outfit has been provided. This includes movable type for printing "Boston Line" (raised letters), New York Point (literature and music), and Braille music; a small "Army Press," and a large Kidder hand-press. Under the direction of the Superintendent, a machine for writing Braille has been constructed by which the pupil can write many times as fast as he could write with a "stylus and tablet," with the further advantage of having what he has written in a convenient position to be read. This machine is known as the Hall Braille-writer. With these machines the pupils solve their problems in algebra and write their letters and school exercises. Although the first machine was not completed till May

SOLVING PROBLEMS IN ALGEBRA WITH BRAILLE-WRITERS.



27, 1892, twenty-five are now in use in this institution, and about seventy-five have been constructed and sold to other institutions and to blind people. Fourteen are in use in the Boston school, nine in St. Louis, twelve in Philadelphia, six in Alabama, two in California, five have been shipped to England, and the remainder to private individuals in different parts of the United States.

A machine has also been constructed (the Hall Stereotype-maker, cut on page 43), by means of which work can be written on copper plates. These plates can be used as stereotypes for printing with an ordinary press. Thousands of copies can be printed from each plate. Several hundred such plates have been made, most of the work of preparing them having been done by blind persons. Although this machine was not completed until January 4, 1893, a similar one is now in use in the St. Louis School for the Blind, and another will be shipped to the Philadelphia school in a few days.

This appropriation also enabled us to purchase two Hammond typewriters, three Remingtons and ten Merritts. Our "typewriting room" contains, besides the typewriters here mentioned, six Braille-writers; and nearly one hundred pupils receive instruction and practice on one or more of these machines daily.

TEACHERS.

Miss Edith Paxton was employed as assistant in the high school at the beginning of the term 1891-92. Before the end of the year her health failed, and her physician advised rest. She was not able to return at the beginning of the next year, but gradually became weaker, and on Saturday evening, January 21, 1893, a few hours after caressing a little blind boy that had called to "see" her, she fell asleep. It is no exaggeration to say that the blind children of Illinois lost a most faithful friend when Miss Edith passed to her long home.

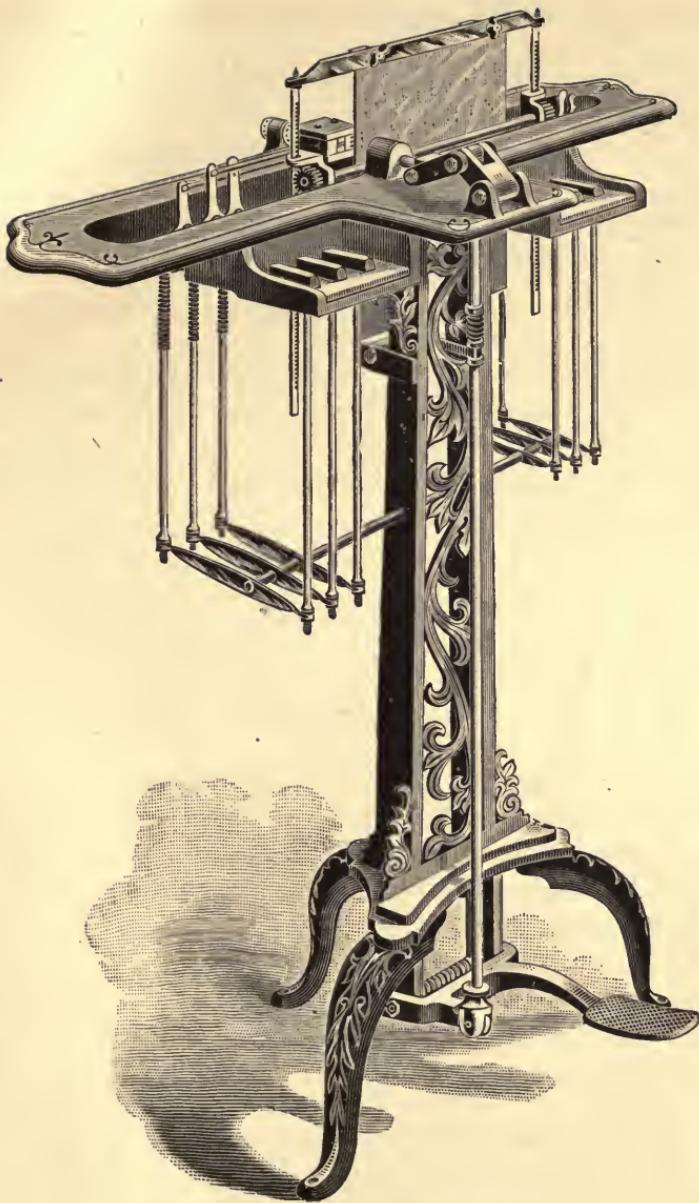
Mrs. Mary Redick Bayly, who had been employed as a teacher in the Ohio Institution many years ago, accepted the position of kindergartener in the fall of 1891. She served the blind of the state most industriously and conscientiously for one year.

NUMBER OF PUPILS ENROLLED.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Term of 1890-91..... | 217 | Term of 1891-92..... | 241 |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Term of 1890-91..... | 186 | Term of 1891-92..... | 216 |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|



THE HALL STEREOTYPE-MAKER.

With this machine a copper stereotype may be written in Braille (either English or American) almost as rapidly as one can write on paper with the Hall Braille-writer. Either single plates, or double plates for interlining, may be written upon it. The machine is simple and substantial in its construction, and requires but little skill to operate it. One of the pupils of the Illinois Institution for the Blind, after a few hours' practice, wrote four lines of a familiar hymn, on a copper plate of sufficient thickness to "stand up" under thousands of impressions, in one and one-half minutes.

MARCH 25, 1893—PRESENT CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL.

There are now 212 pupils in attendance. Of these, thirty-six are men in the shop department, and five are women in the sewing-rooms. Of the remaining 171, ninety-one are males and eighty are females.

The entire enrollment from the opening of the school in 1849 up to the present time, is 1,141.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

In this department there are three divisions: First, the kindergarten and primary grades; second, the intermediate and grammar grades; third, the high school.

The second division is subdivided into four sections of boys and four sections of girls.

The teachers and their terms of service are as follows:

HIGH SCHOOL.

Prof. L. M. Coates, one year.

DIVISION 2.

Teacher of geography, Miss Mattie Bevans, six years; teacher of reading and history, Miss Tillie Johnson (blind), two years; teacher of arithmetic, Prof. George R. Parker (blind), eight years; teacher of language, Miss Eva Hewes, two years as assistant matron and two years as teacher.

DIVISION 1.

Miss Harriet Rees assisted by the more advanced pupils, one year.

Miss Minnie Bacon, term of service two years, is employed half of her time as teacher in the "typewriting room," and the other half as assistant in the high school. Miss Nina M. Hall, term of service one year, devotes half of her time to work in the "typewriting room."

MUSIC DEPARTMENT.

Prof. Day, of whom mention has been made before, is in charge of the music department. He gives instruction to several pupils on the pipe-organ, teaches the harmony and chorus classes, and arranges all the music work. One hundred and fifteen pupils

receive instruction regularly on the piano, fifty-two on the violin, ten on the pipe-organ, and several on each of the following instruments: cornet, violoncello, viola, piccolo, French horn, euphonium, etc. Thirty-five have instruction in harmony, twenty-five in vocal music, while the chorus class (taught always by Prof. Day) usually numbers about forty. For all these subdivisions, most of the music is printed on our own press, and a copy put into the hands of each learner. Several teachers and pupils use the Stereotype-maker. A person with sight (or two blind persons) can prepare the stereotype for a page of music in fifteen minutes. Several hundred copies per hour can be printed on our Kidder press.

Prof. Day's assistants and their terms of service in the Illinois Institution are given below:

Prof. M. H. Grist, teacher of violin and other orchestral instruments, three years; Miss Susie Draper, piano, eleven years; Miss Alice Clarke (blind), piano, three years; Prof. L. M. Hitt, vocal, two years; W. H. Jackson, teacher of piano-tuning and repairing, five years; Charles Tederstrom (blind), assistant in piano-tuning, two years.

WORK DEPARTMENT.

The subdivisions of this department are as follows;

1. The broom shop.
2. The girls' work-rooms.
3. The boys' work-room.

William R. Boyer has been for the past two years foreman of the broom shop. About thirty blind men are here employed mainly as apprentices in broom-making. The sales from the shop are now over \$3,000 per annum, while during the last year ten men have been sent out to attempt to earn their livelihood as broom-makers. Some of these are successful.

In the girls' work-rooms, chair-caning, sewing by hand and on machines, crocheting, knitting, the making of bead-work and horse nets and hammocks, are taught. The sales from these rooms amount to from \$15 to \$25 per month. Miss Jennie Clark, who has been connected with the institution for many years, is in charge of one of these rooms, and Mrs. Clyde H. Hall, whose term of service is three years, is in charge of the other.

Mr. Thomas Dower (blind) is in charge of the boys' work-room. His term of service is four years. In this room the boys

are taught chair-caning, and the older ones receive instruction in horse-net and hammock-making.

A "Sloyd-room" has been opened this year in which attempts are being made to give manual training by working in wood. The room is provided with a lathe and full sets of wood-working tools. Mr. Henry Edwards, a pupil in the high school, is in charge of this room.

During the last two years nearly all the correspondence of the Superintendent's office has been done with a Remington typewriter operated by a blind pupil. Mr. Frank Stoddard, of Hillsboro, a member of the class of 1893, has done a large part of this work. He writes from dictation at the rate of thirty to forty words a minute, and his work is unusually free from errors. When several copies of a paper or a letter are required, he writes first from dictation upon the Braille-writer and, from the embossed copy thus provided, makes the requisite number of copies with the Remington.

A large part of the work with the stereotype-maker has been done by Mr. Arthur Jewell, a young man who graduated from the institution in the class of 1886, and who returned for instruction in piano-tuning. He writes in copper rapidly and accurately, reads and corrects his own proof, and operates the press without difficulty. His reading of proof, with the fore finger of the left hand on his embossed copy, and the fore finger of the right hand on his stereotype, thus reading simultaneously both the copy and the proof, called forth the expression from an observer, "It beats eyes all to pieces." Since January 4, 1893, Mr. Jewell, besides doing his work as a pupil, has written several hundred copper plates.

Mrs. Frank H. Hall has been Matron for the last three years. She has generously taken upon herself the employment and management of all the female help, and has personally apportioned and supervised the work done by twenty-six women. In this she has been ably assisted by Miss Jean Cunningham, who has been connected with the institution sixteen years, and has had charge of the kitchen and dining-room for three years. Her success in this work has been marked, and is due to her unusual good judgment, to her untiring zeal, and to her almost ceaseless energy and activity.

Mrs. Hall has given personal attention to the purchasing of and keeping in order, the clothing of the younger pupils, and to

providing for the many wants of children in darkness and without a mother's care. In this work she has ever found a most competent assistant—one whose worth can not be told in words—in Miss Katie Halpin, who has been employed at the institution seven years, and who, during the last three years, has acted the part of mother to twenty-five or thirty blind boys. She has washed their faces, combed their hair and taught them to do these things for themselves. She has taken splinters out of fingers, attended to sprains, bumps, cuts and bruises; she has wiped away tears from sightless eyes weeping for a far-away mother, listened to childish complaints, bathed feverish brows, and in one instance, at the touching request of a dying boy, she took him in her lap, and held him in her arms while his spirit passed away from earth. Many a blind boy in Illinois will never forget "Miss Kathy."

There are many others too who have been employed here who are worthy of honorable mention, did space permit. Miss Jennie Clark, who has been employed here since 1876, has shown much self-denial and patient devotion to duty. Miss Alice Smith, who has been in charge of the younger girls for the past two years has been very helpful, and attentive to the wants of those under her charge. Miss Titia Grant, continuously since 1885, and for many years prior to that time has alike served the interests of the blind and those who have given her employment.

Maj. C. E. McDougall, as Boys' Supervisor; Byron Gray, as Superintendent of Construction and Repairs (oftentimes—indeed usually—not only superintendent but laborer as well); E. C. Schureman as bookkeeper, and Clyde H. Hall as store-keeper and purchasing agent, have all proved themselves competent in their several departments, and in a high degree worthy of confidence and esteem.

The writer of this brief history is aware that it is wanting in a most essential part, viz.: the record of what has been accomplished after leaving the institution by those who have enjoyed the advantages so generously provided for them by the state.

The records in the office of the Superintendent, bearing upon the subject, are so incomplete, and the time allowed for preparation of this sketch so short, that no satisfactory account can be given, of the occupations and achievements of former pupils. This important work must be left for the future historian.

One of the results of the victory of the Democratic party in the elections of November, 1892, was the resignation of the members of the Board of Trustees. Early in the following March, Gov. Altgeld appointed their successors who met and organized, March 31, 1893.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1893.

HON. CHARLES A. BARNES, Jacksonville, President,
JUDGE HENRY PHILLIPS, Virginia, HON. A. L. LOWE, Robinson.

By request of the new Board at their April meeting, Mr. Frank H. Hall tendered his resignation as superintendent to take effect July 1, 1893, and Rev. W. F. Short, D. D. was appointed to fill the vacancy.

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